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#02-01, Genome Institute of Singapore, Singapore 138672 (SG).

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(74) Agents: **VIERING, JENTSCHURA PARTNER** et al.;  
P.O. Box 1088, Rochor Road, Rochor Post Office, Singa-  
pore 911833 (SG).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **AGENCY  
FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH**  
[SG/SG]; 20 Biopolis Way, #07-01 Centros, Singapore  
138668 (SG).

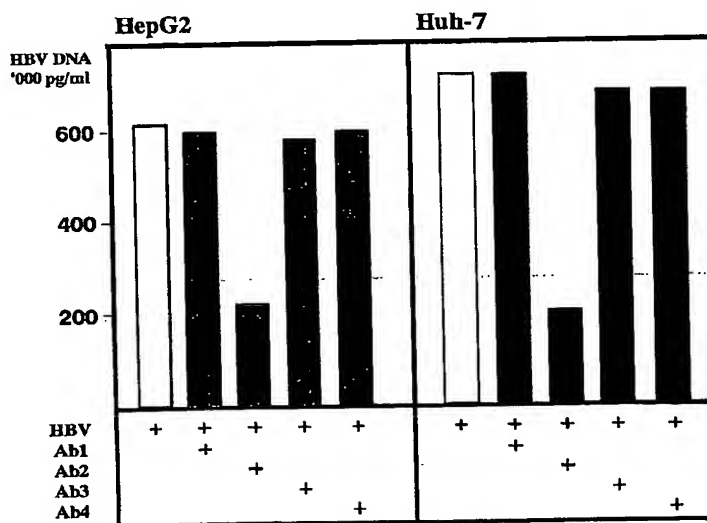
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **NG FONG POH,**  
Lisa [SG/SG]; 60 Biopolis Street, Genome #02-01,  
Genome Institute of Singapore, Singapore 138672 (SG).  
**REN, Ee, Chee** [SG/SG]; 60 Biopolis Street, Genome

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(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOUNDS FOR ALTERING THE LOAD OF HEPATITIS VIRUS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for altering the load of a Hepatitis virus present in an infected host organism. The method involves modulation of the complex formation of a heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein K (hnRNP K) and the regulatory region of a Hepatitis virus, enhancer II region. Additionally there are methods of identifying compounds that modulate complex formation, and the use of such compounds in diagnosis of a Hepatitis infection. The present invention also relates to a mutation in enhancer II region at position 1752 of the virus sequence which reduces the binding affinity of hnRNP K with the enhancer II region.